

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 are pending in the current application. Claims 4-16 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claim 1 is an independent claim. In view of the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

**35 U.S.C. § 102(b) REJECTIONS - ALLEN**

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Allen et al. (hereinafter 'Allen'), U.S. Patent No. 6,111,696. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite an emissive plastic optical fiber with a diameter that "ranges from 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  - 10 cm and the fiber is formed by heat drawing of a preform for the plastic optical fiber." Non-limiting, example embodiments may be found throughout the application as originally filed.

Allen fails to anticipate or suggest a preferred range of the diameter of the emissive plastic optical fiber. As such, Allen fails to anticipate, disclose or suggest all of the features of amended independent claim 1.

As such, Applicants submit that Allen fails to anticipate or suggest "wherein a diameter of the emissive plastic optical fiber ranges from 0.001  $\mu\text{m}$  - 10 cm" as recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection to independent claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 3 is respectfully requested, at least by virtue of its dependency on independent claim 1.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTION - ALLEN

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allen, U.S. Patent No. 6,111,696. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants note that claim 2 is dependent on independent claim 1. Applicants further note that Allen fails to anticipate, disclose or suggest all of the limitations of amended independent claim 1. Thus, claim 2 is allowable over Allen, at least by virtue of its dependent on independent claim 1, as well as for its own merits.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claim 2 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-3 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

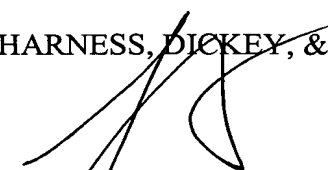
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By

  
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